

BLACK SCIENCE

TM



RICK REMENDER
MATTEO SCALERA
DEAN WHITE



BLACK SCIENCE created by Rick Remender & Matteo Scalera



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A dark, industrial kitchen with a large meat cleaver on a block. The scene is dimly lit, with a green and yellow striped lantern hanging on the left. In the background, there are shelves with various items, including a bowl and some hanging objects. The floor is made of large, irregular tiles. A large, rectangular metal block sits on a wooden surface, and a large, sharp cleaver is embedded in it. The cleaver has a dark handle and a wide, flat blade. The block is covered in blood splatters. In the foreground, there is a basket of small, round objects, possibly nuts or seeds, and a small, round object on the floor. The overall atmosphere is grimy and unsettling.

LISTEN
TO ME!

PLEASE—
THEY'RE JUST
CHILDREN!

EVERY LIFE
IS PAID FOR
BY SOME
SACRIFICE.

MINE IS NO DIFFERENT.

PLEASE—
LET THEM
GO!

◀MOVE YER
TAILS, YOU MANGY
CLUTS!▶

◀LORD KROL'K
AWAITS! THE
INDULGENCE OF
THE GREAT MOTHER
BOILS!▶

MY FATHER DIED WHEN I
WAS FOUR YEARS OLD.

HE WAS A FARMER
WITH NO EDUCATION...

...AND HE WAS A GOOD MAN.

THE KIND OF MAN WHO CAME
TO THE AID OF THOSE IN NEED.

DURING THE GREAT FAMINE HE
GAVE HUNDREDS OF REFUGEES
SAFE HARBOR ON OUR FARM.

AND AS A
REWARD HE
WAS STRICKEN
WITH MALARIA.

W-WHERE
ARE YOU
TAKING
US?!

SHURP

THEY CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
YOU.

DON'T THINK IT
WOULD MATTER IF
THEY COULD.

AS HE LAY DYING HIS
ONLY THOUGHTS WERE
OF HIS WIFE AND SON.

FIA, I'M
SCARED.

ME TOO,
NATE—

LEFT BEHIND WITH NO MEANS
TO SUPPORT OURSELVES...

...IN A COUNTRY THAT OFFERED
NO PROMISE OF A BETTER LIFE.

I'M
RIGHT
HERE.

I'M WITH
YOU.



<THESE PALE
GOBLINS SHOULD
BE EATEN
RAW.>

<ALIVE.>

<IGNITE THE
FESTIVE
EXPLOSIONS TO
USHER THE
NEXT ROUND
OF FEASTING,
GOBLIN
KNIGHT!>

MY FATHER HAD A SMALL BUT
TIGHT GROUP OF FRIENDS,
ALL LIKE-MINDED MEN,
PLAIN AND STRONG...

...BUT HONORABLE.

<PULL THE
CORD, LAUNCH
THE FIREWORKS. I
KNOW THE DRILL.>

AMONGST THEM,
MY GODFATHER,
HAAZIM.

HAAZIM PROMISED
THAT HE'D GET
MY MOTHER AND ME
TO THE STATES...

TO WHAT HE HOPED WOULD
BE A BETTER FUTURE.

YAH!

TO THESE MEN THE
PROMISE WAS A
DEFINITION OF ONE'S
ENTIRE WORTH--

--A VERY
IMPORTANT
THING.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE
OATH MORE SACRED...



FULFILLING THE WISH
OF A DYING MAN.

THE CROWD
THIRSTS FOR THE
HARVEST!

BLACK SKELETON

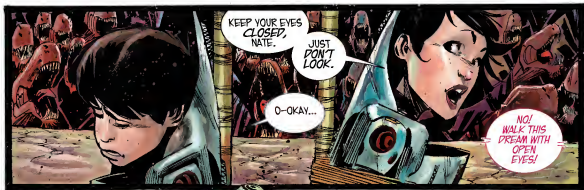
RICK REMENDER
WRITER

MATTEO SCALERA
ARTIST

DEAN WHITE
PAINTED ART

RUS WOOTON
LETTERING

SEBASTIAN GERNER
EDITOR





<STOP HERE!
THE FESTIVE
ONES ARE
FAMISHED!>

MY MOTHER AND I LIVED WITH
HAAZIM UNTIL I WAS NINE.

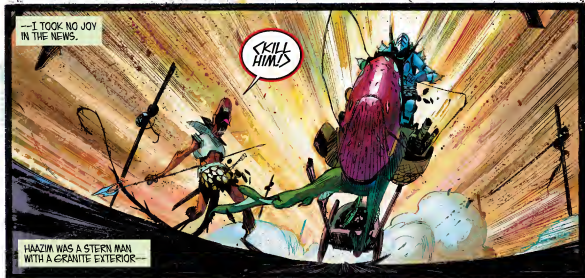
HE TIRELESSLY SOUGHT A WAY TO
FULFILL HIS PROMISE TO MY FATHER.



YAW!

<HALT---!>

WHEN HE TOLD US WE'D FINALLY
FOUND THE FUNDS TO SEND US
TO THE UNITED STATES—



—I TOOK NO JOY
IN THE NEWS.

SKILL
HIM!

HAAZIM WAS A STERN MAN
WITH A GRANITE EXTERIOR—



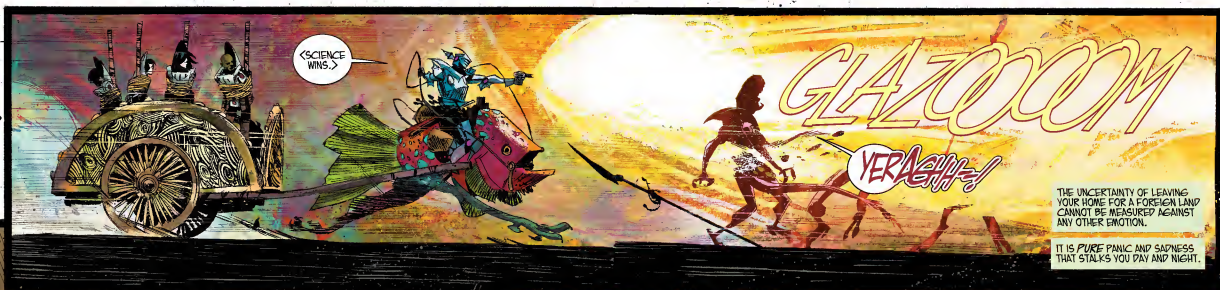
—BUT I LOVED HIM.

HE RAISED ME
AS HIS OWN.

<YOU FACE
THE MIGHT OF
THE LOTPLK!>



<AND YOU FACE A
MIGHT OF A SUPER
SCI-FI LASER
GUN!>



"...BUT KEEP ALL
THOSE YOU MAKE."

KADIR--?!

WHO'S A
SLEAZY
SHITBAG NOW,
HUH?

YOU ARE!
YOU'RE THE
SLEAZY
SHITBAG!

FAIR
ENOUGH.

TAKE THE
HATCHET---
GET THE
OTHERS
FREE---

"---AND HOLD ON TIGHT."



IS THAT
HORSE A...
FISH?!

IT WASN'T UNTIL I WAS
MUCH OLDER THAT MY
MOTHER TOLD ME HOW
HAAZIM PAID FOR
OUR TRAVEL...

THE PRICE FOR
HIS PROMISE.

HE'D PLEDGED HIS
SERVICE TO SMUGGLERS
AND TRAFFICKERS
AND CUTTHROATS.

THE ONLY OPTION
AVAILABLE TO HIM.

AN OPTION THAT
WOULD COST HIM
HIS LIFE, AND HIS
OWN FAMILY'S
SECURITY.

BUT HE KEPT HIS WORD.

WHY DO
FISH LIVE IN
SALTWATER?

PEPPER
MAKES THEM
SNEEZE.

I APPRECIATE
THE LEVITY, BUT
PLEASE SHUT UP.

THEY'RE
RIGHT
BEHIND US,
KADIR!

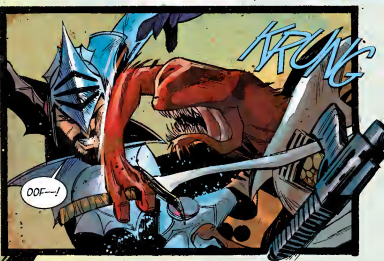
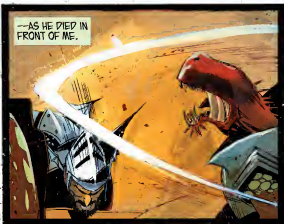
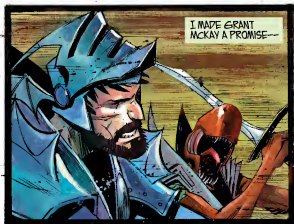
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO SWITCH
THIS FELLOW
INTO A HIGHER
GEAR.

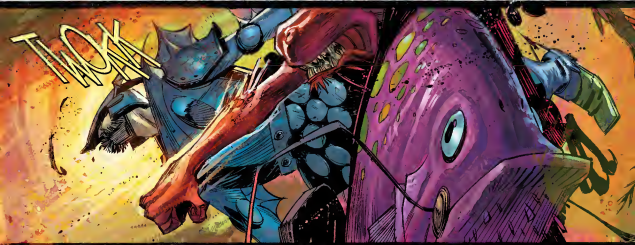


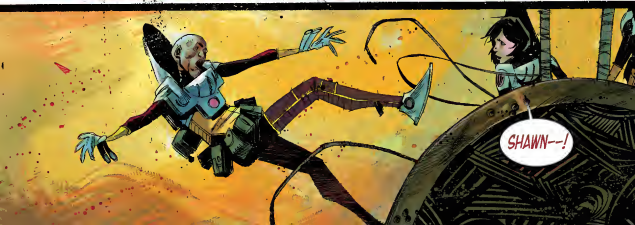
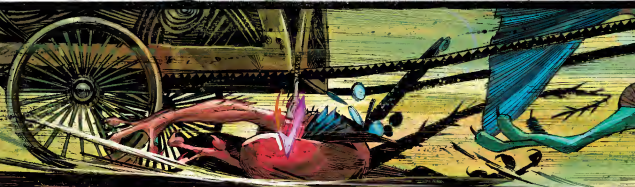
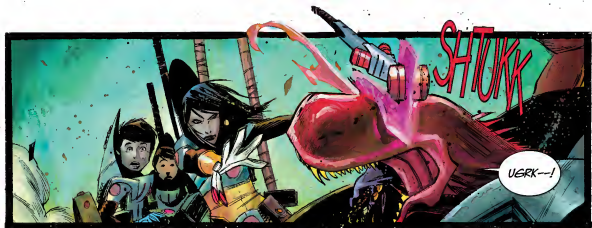
MAYBE A
FINGER IN HIS
ASS WOULD
BE THE JOLT
HE NEEDS?

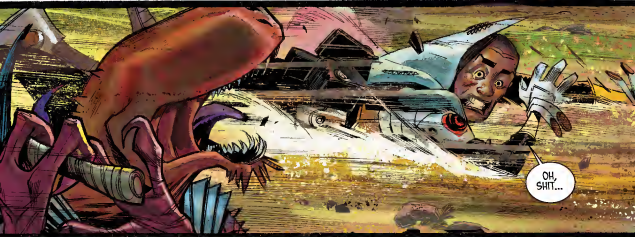
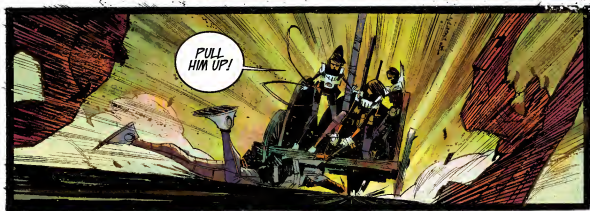


C'MON.
YOU'VE
HAD SOME
PRACTICE,
REBECCA.





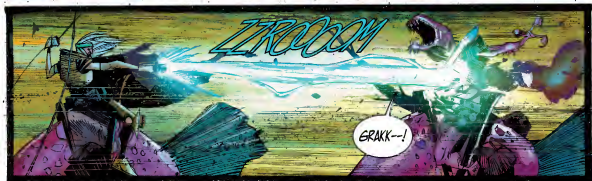








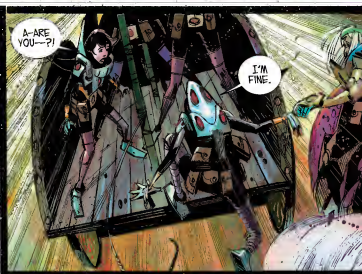
<GOBLIN
MAGIC WILL
NOT SAVE
YO-->



GRAKK--!



THANK
YOU.



A-ARE
YOU--?!

I'M
FINE.



I CAN'T
LOSE YOU,
TOO.

IT'S OKAY, PIA.
EVERYTHING IS
GOING
TO BE--



OH...

"...YOU GOTTA BE
FUCKING KIDDING ME."

"FILTHY GOBLINS!
FACE YOUR FOLK--
FACE THE PURIFICATION
AND STRON
OF JEMO THE
AQUATIC'S

ALL I EVER WANTED WAS
TO GET RID OF THE
GOD DAMNED PILLAR.

DID WHAT I HAD TO--
FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.

THE PILLAR IS
AN ABOMINATION--

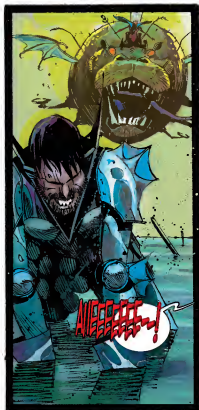
--THE FIRST TRUE WEAPON
OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

EWOKS

A DOORWAY TO EVERY
IMAGINABLE DANGER.

EVERY
IMAGINABLE
DISEASE.

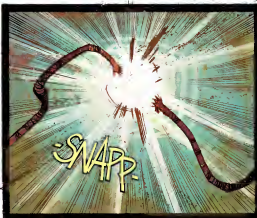
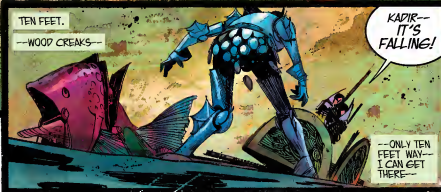
THE POTENTIAL
TO WIPE OUT NOT
ONLY ONE EARTH--

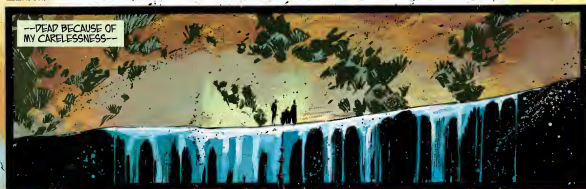
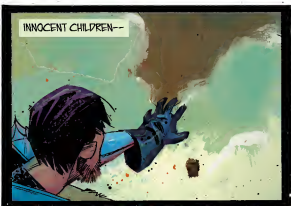


—GET A GOOD CLOSE
LOOK, FUCKER.

BLORRRRRR

SHRR-GLOOM





To Be Continued...

FROM PILLAR TO POST



CALLING ALL DIMENSIONALISTS!

Send comments, questions and distress signals to WriteRemender@gmail.com! Mark letters "OK to print".

Welcome back, everyone! Mad scientist Editor Sebastian Girner here, representing Rick, Matteo, Dean and Rust! Did you miss us? We definitely missed you and we're really excited to be back in Black, as it were. The team used the time away to cook up another vat of fizzy sci-fi insanity for you, and with this issue we're taking the first step into some truly warped territory. The reception of the first arc of the book has been nothing short of astounding; you guys and gals really blew us all away, sending letters, tweets, texting, snapchatting and skywriting praises all over God's creation! So we want to be sure to prove ourselves worthy once again, and let's see it the second chapter of the Anarchist League of Scientists can top the first!

And hey! We have a few more letters sent in after the last issue. If you'll remember, that issue ended with some pretty big changes for the League, the repercussions of which we're only just now beginning to see. Let's take a look at what some of you had to say!

Dear Rick and Team

What an ending to the first arc! Really enjoyed every issue with #3 being my favorite. Broke my heart. Will we ever see another Ward in the Onion? You've really captured the drama that makes all stories great. I could stare and Matteo Scaleria and Dean White's art all day long even without the dialogue. Possible future issue maybe??? Please keep up the great work and I look forward to reading more for a long time to come. In my head I have likened BLACK SCIENCE to (in my opinion a great TV series) *Sliders* so I was wondering where the team draws their inspirations? I'm also baffled by the amount of high-quality work that Rick is currently putting out with Image and Marvel. How do you manage it? I assume it's some form of one-upmanship with Jonathan Hickman for the most on-going monthly series at a time. Anyways, can't wait for more inter-dimensional madness in the next arc.

Thanks again,
Christopher A.

Inter-dimensional madness you shall receive! Rick draws a lot of inspiration from the classic *Eerie* and *Weird Science* comic magazines of yore, specifically the works of Wally Wood, who I know is among his favorite artists. As for how he manages to work on so many projects at both Marvel and Image, you have to understand that Rick is not like you or I. He is a delicious, blubbery mess of yellow flesh, chained to a harness in an underground chamber, which feeds and relieves himself through a system of tubes. I wander in there every few weeks to prod him with a sharp stick and he releases a greasy mess of script pages from one of the many flabby folds on his body. Most would call it a cursed existence, but he seems happy enough. It's all for the love of comics!

Hi guys,
Just read issue six and I'm SO EXCITED for more! I must say that I don't want to this story in any other form, the artwork and writing are so perfectly delivered in the comic book format that any other medium would only water it down. BLACK SCIENCE is the perfect new example of great storytelling and the potential of this medium.

My question: Any chance we'll get to see some behind the scenes stuff (either in later issues or in the collected trades) especially the writing/scripting process AND the art process: thumbnails/layouts to inked pages and so on?

Thank you for making this book,
Sam

Thanks, Sam! Nothing like a good, fun comic, right? I love the fact that we can put out stories every month the scope of which would require a film budget of several trillion dollars to shoot.

As for seeing some behind the scenes stuff, I think we can make that happen! We're all about keeping the back of the single issues filled with interesting material, letters pages, designs and a bit of other added value content, to reward you tie people who come out to show your support every month. Not like these shiftless Wall-for-Trade readers (Just kidding. We love you all!)

Just picked up my jaw off the floor after issue 6... WHY? Why Grant? He was the hero, the leader, someone I related to. Being a father of two myself and feeling the weight of the world on your shoulders simply because you want the best for your children, doing everything you think is right, hoping it's right, it's like gambling almost. And when you do wrong by them, being crushed by that weight. Don't know how I am going to recover after issue 6. But great great book. Love every single aspect and while friends of mine aren't fans, I won't stop believing nor will I stop campaigning for BLACK SCIENCE. Thank you to you and your entire team!

Shameel V.

Thank you, Shameel. The outpour of grief, sadness (even some anger) at the end of last issue showed us that people really cared for Grant. Despite all his failings, he was a good man, to whom you could relate. That is one of the core themes of BLACK SCIENCE, at least for me: understanding and accepting one's own mistakes and taking responsibility for one's deeds. Seeing that every action has a consequence. Grant understood that. And now we will see how Kadir fares in the same position. (Not so hot so far, huh?)

Dear Rick and Matteo,

I've always preferred fantasy to science fiction. I suppose I've found something highbrow in futuristic technology, extraterrestrial life, and extradimensional worlds, but you guys have made me thoroughly love BLACK SCIENCE.

First off, I know you're not supposed to judge a book by its cover, but each and every one for this series has been amazing. I like the consistent 1960s "BLACK SCIENCE" logo in the white column (or should I say pillar?) on the left and how it draws you to the scene on the right. I feel like I'm being pulled into an old movie poster or a picture for a pulp magazine.

Then there's what's past the covers. It's high fantasy meets Teslaapunk. It's alternate history meets retrofuturism. It's a Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court meets Space Family Robinson. You have done an amazing job stretching the science fiction genre in so many fantastic directions.

Well done, sirs. Well done.

Paul K.

Hey, Paul. How excited were you when you opened this issue and saw it was wall-to-wall high-fantasy/sci-fi mash up? It's like we made a comic just for you! But that's another beauty of this book, we can take it wherever our minds want to go, nothing is beyond the limits of the Pillar. This new world is actually one of my favorites of the ones we've visited so far (though Ghost Monkey Ice Volcano will always have a special place in my heart). Hope you keep reading, because we're looking to keep stretching into all

possible directions!

Rick, Matteo & Dean,

BLACK SCIENCE has quickly become one of my "read this immediately" books, and I have to chalk this up to the combination of the whole creative team's excellent input.

While aware of Rick as a creator/writer, I (sadly) hadn't read any of his work before -- and this is more certainly an excellent introduction.

Matteo's aesthetic so reminded me of what...? Something that I couldn't quite place at first, then it came crashing into my head -- Doug Wildey's *Jonny Quest*, yet seen through tough-as-nails, take-no-prisoners prism. And Dean's watercolors are so drenched with emotions and urgency they elevate all other aspects of the story.

I met Dean at WonderCon, and he was absolutely wonderful; he explained how he looks at the narrative like a piece of music and decides how to color like a conductor - genius; but that's necessary creative heights required for this.

Looking forward to seeing this series going on for the magic 70 issues.

All the best,
Chris

Wonderful to hear we've climbed to the top of your read list! Thank you for the compliments, I've never seen a creative team bust its butt as hard as the BLACK SCIENCE crew, and I'm glad it shows. If you're looking to get into some of Rick's earlier work you should really check out *Fear Agent*, which was his breakout series (and glorious pulp sci-fi boot!) as well as his run on Marvel's *Uncanny X-Force* (for my money the most exciting run on a superhero book in over a decade.)

BLACK SCIENCE absolutely rocks! Champagne and caviar for everyone! I write to you from Bulgaria, a dimension where comic stores do not exist yet. Yeah, I'm going the extra mile for you guys - I get few carefully selected titles delivered all the way from Belgium, since owning them on Comixology does not seem enough.

Every issue of BLACK SCIENCE reads like an episode of *Lost* in Space retold by H.G. Wells if he was still alive and enjoyed marijuana. It's crazy, imaginative and fun. My favorite character is Kadir, you just gotta love what a perfect asshole he is being the whole time. I see big potential for that boy.

Keep up the great work!
Nikola K.

No comic book stores? That's a rough dimension you live in there, Nikola. Almost as bad as the one with all the electric frog people! I'm glad Belgium is there to provide you with comic book care packages! That should really fall under international aid! Let us know what you thought of Kadir in this issue! That guy is in for a rough time. Being an asshole always ends up coming back to bite you on the...well, asshole!

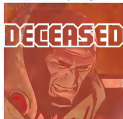
That's it for this time! Be sure to come back next month, when we violently and tragically kill off every single one of our remaining cast of characters!

Ha ha. Just joking! ... Or am I? You'll have to grab BLACK SCIENCE #8 and find out!

See you all in 30!
SG

THE ANARCHIST LEAGUE OF SCIENTISTS

Grant McKay (Age 41)



Founder of the Anarchist League of Scientists. Grant dedicated his life to utilizing science for the betterment of mankind, never for profit or power, which long put him at odds with his Boss, Kadir. When the Pillar malfunctioned he saw it as his only duty to return his children, Pia and Nate, to his wife Sara. When Kadir revealed Grant's affair with Revesco to the kids Grant attacked him. In the fight that ensued, he was fatally wounded and left behind, but not before making Kadir promise to bring his children back to their mother.

Kadir (Age 42)



Executive Manager of the Pillar Project. Originally a scientist himself, circumstances caused Kadir to step out of the lab and into the boardroom. Proud, standoffish and career-driven, he is always out for number one: himself. Though the rivalry between Kadir and Grant, dated back to their college days, Kadir was the only one at Grant's side when he uttered his dying wish, and will stop at nothing to honor it.

Rebecca (Age 33)



Co-creator and main researcher on the Pillar Project, along with Grant. Every bit Grant's intellectual equal and just as driven, she ultimately grew tired of watching his anti-authoritarianism slow him down and convinced him to join her in Block Science labs. The mutual love of science and the long years cooped up together in a lab resulted in the two becoming lovers. The Pillar began as her passion project, and she harbors a dark secret.

Shawn (Age 22)



Grant's protégé and youngest member of the League. A genius at birth, Shawn was approached by Grant to join the Pillar Project and was so eager that he dropped out of college. Shawn is the inventor of the Pillar's homing beacon, which calculates a dimension's "location" within the Onton. Always quick with a joke to lighten up tense situations, Shawn looked up to Grant and loves him like a father.

Chandra (Age 31)



Personal assistant to Kadir. Once the keeper of schedules, budgets and the gossip around the office, she is now the host of a vicious consciousness, carried with her from a dimension the group previously visited. Taking control of her actions only for short moments, its goals are still unclear.

The Shaman (Age ??)



A Shaman medicine man, resident of one of the first dimensions the Pillar jumped to, where the European mainland was beset by an invasion of ultra-high-tech Native American war tribes. At first taken prisoner by the Dimensionauts for his healing abilities, he has since become a calm and unassuming member of the group, silently meditating beside the Pillar. He has yet to utter a single word...

Pia McKay (Age 18)



Grant's daughter. Typical surly teenager caught between her parents' ongoing marriage crisis. Pia is observant and sharp and never tired from picking fights with her dad; in an attempt to show him the damage his negligence had caused his family.

Nate McKay (Age 13)



Grant's youngest and only son. Inheriting both his father's scientific curiosity as well as his manic depression, Nate is a precocious child, overprotected by everyone around him.

NEXT MONTH

BLACK SCIENCE



RICK REMENDER
MATTEO SCALERA
DEAN WHITE



\$3.50



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MAD

about getting partnered with a foul-mouthed, cynical old homicide cop

TO WORK HERE

inside a five-mile tin can packed with a half million people 22,000 miles in orbit

BUT IT damn sure **HELPS**, you prick.



FUSE
THE

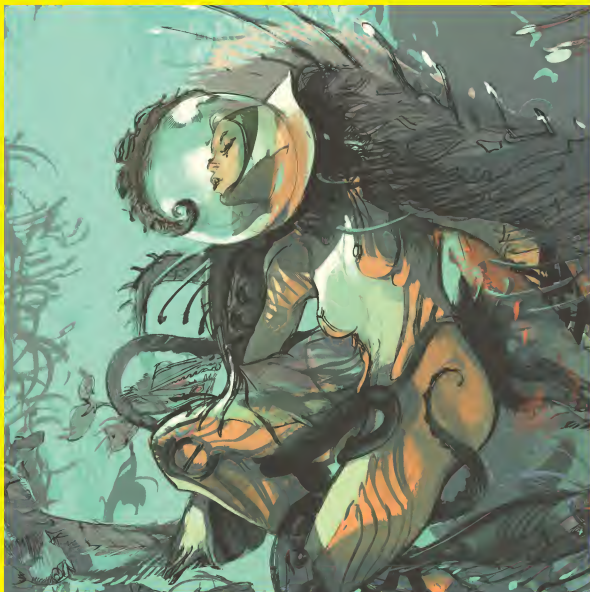
VOLUME ONE

22,000 MILES UP, THERE IS NO BACKUP.
ANTHONY JOHNSTON • JUSTIN GREENWOOD
with **SHARI CHANKHAMMA • ED BRISSON**

LIFTOFF 2014-08

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IS FOR IMMERSIVE



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